

Our ref: INA-44

Client's Ref: F1455-AT-US

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

-----X

In re Application of: Hartman, Erwin, *et al.* : Examiner: Patel, Vishal A.

Serial No.: 10/596,518 : Art Unit: 3676

Filed: August 16, 2006 : Dated: January 23, 2009

Title: SEAL WITH NON-CONTACT :  
ADJACENT DEFLECTOR RINGS


-----X

**RESPONSE**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC FILING  
I hereby certify that this document is being  
electronically transmitted to the Commissioner for  
Patents via EFS-Web on January 23, 2009.

LUCAS & MERCANTI, LLP

BY:   
Nicole K. Schuller

Sir:

This is in response to an Office Action dated November 13, 2008 in this Application. Attached hereto are Claim Amendments and Remarks each starting on a separate page.